

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DOHA 00698 151226Z

47

ACTION NEA-10

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R 151047Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0558

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0698

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, QA

SUBJ: F-5 AND US ARMS POLICY IN GULF

REF: DOHA 0536

1. DURING JUNE 12 CONVERSATION WITH AMIR OF QATAR, SHAYKH KHALIFA BIN HAMAD AL THANI, KHALIFA REMARKED ON SUCCESS OF SALE OF US F-16 TO NUMBER OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. AMIR HAD CONFUSED F-16 WITH F-5, AND I STRAIGHTENED HIM OUT. HE ASKED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ABOUT F-5, WHOSE PERFORMANCE HE HAD OBSERVED AND BEEN IMPRESSED WITH DURING HIS VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA LAST SPRING.

2. REFTTEL, AS YET UNANSWERED, RAISED QUESTION WHETHER F-5 SALES PERMISSIBLE UNDER US GULF ARMS SUPPLY POLICY. NORTHROP REP TOUCHED BASE WITH EMBASSY ON JUNE 7. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, HE MADE NO OTHER LOCAL CONTACTS. WE UNDERSTAND GOQ MAY BE IN MARKET FOR FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, AND AMIR'S QUESTIONS ABOUT F-5 MAY BE INDICATIVE.

3. EMBASSY HAS NEVER DISCUSSED MILITARY AIRCRAFT WITH GOQ. HOWEVER, IF QUESTION RAISED WITH US, WE WOULD LIKE SOME GUIDANCE UPON WHICH TO BASE OUR REPLY. PLEASE ADVISE.
PAGANELLI

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